

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3910

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to assist low and moderate income individuals to finance the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household water well systems in rural areas.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2000

Mr. BOEHNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to assist low and moderate income individuals to finance the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household water well systems in rural areas.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Affordable Drinking  
5       Water Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

1           (1) affordable access to safe, reliable drinking  
2       water is in the public interest;

3           (2) approximately 15,000,000 American house-  
4       holds receive drinking water from household water  
5       well systems;

6           (3) according to a national survey, more than  
7       80 percent of these well owners say they prefer their  
8       household well system to community drinking water  
9       systems or bottled water;

10          (4) many consumers and American farms re-  
11       ceive drinking water from older household water well  
12       systems not constructed to current standards;

13          (5) these systems should be upgraded to ensure  
14       consumer and farm access to the safest and most re-  
15       liable sources of drinking water;

16          (6) the United States Department of Agri-  
17       culture and the Rural Utilities Service have no pro-  
18       gram focused on funding the construction, upgrade,  
19       or refurbishment of household water well systems;  
20       and

21          (7) centralized water systems are not always  
22       the most cost-efficient way to deliver safe, reliable  
23       drinking water to rural customers.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME INDIVID-**  
 2 **UALS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION AND**  
 3 **REFURBISHING OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD**  
 4 **WATER WELL SYSTEMS IN RURAL AREAS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Consolidated  
 6 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.)  
 7 is amended by inserting after section 306D the following:

8 **“SEC. 306E. GRANTS TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME INDI-**  
 9 **VIDUALS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION,**  
 10 **REFURBISHING, AND SERVICING OF INDI-**  
 11 **VIDUAL HOUSEHOLD WATER WELL SYSTEMS**  
 12 **IN RURAL AREAS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants  
 14 in accordance with this section to private nonprofit organi-  
 15 zations for the purpose of assisting eligible individuals to  
 16 obtain financing for the construction, refurbishing, and  
 17 servicing of individual household water well systems owned  
 18 (or to be owned) by such individuals in rural areas.

19 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—In subsection (a), the  
 20 term ‘eligible individual’ means an individual who is a  
 21 member of a household the combined income of whose  
 22 members for the most recent 12-month period for which  
 23 such information is available is not more than 100 percent  
 24 of the median nonmetropolitan household income for the  
 25 State or territory in which the individual resides, accord-

1 ing to the most recent decennial census of the United  
2 States.

3 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant made under this sec-  
4 tion may be used for the purpose described in subsection  
5 (a), may be used to pay administrative expenses associated  
6 with providing the assistance described in subsection (a),  
7 and may be invested to provide income to be used to carry  
8 out such purpose.

9 “(d) PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding  
10 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority  
11 to applicants that have substantial expertise and experi-  
12 ence in promoting the safe and productive use of house-  
13 hold water well and ground water.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
15 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2001.

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